

# Iwi push for share of minerals

Hauraki Maori want a slice of profits from an estimated \$1 billion gold and silver mining plan at Waihi.

Hauraki iwi are keen to keep pressure on the Government to include minerals in any future Treaty of Waitangi settlements.

A collective made up of 12 iwi from the Hauraki region is in the process of negotiating a settlement with the Government and treaty negotiations minister Chris Finlayson has indicated the deal could be vastly different from agreements with other tribes.

In a letter sent to the Hauraki Iwi Collective in July, Mr Finlayson acknowledged the tribes' desire to enter formal arrangements particularly in relation to infrastructure and investment but declined to make any assurances in

regards to an outcome. "I understand this includes matters such as the functions of the Overseas Investment Office, rights in a range of assets and preferential access to commercial opportunities.

"These would all involve new or highly unusual forms of redress or recognition and go well beyond current Treaty settlement policy parameters," he said.

Hauraki Iwi Collective chair Paul Majurey said he was adamant they would continue to push for minerals, particularly gold, to be included in any future settlement – even though the Government has always maintained that minerals such as gold, uranium and oil are not up for discussion.

The Crown Minerals Act clearly states those sorts of

resources are the property of the Crown.

Mr Majurey said while he understood the Government's position, the gold claim related to land the tribes' had lost through confiscation and the Crown's purchasing policies.

"As we progress with negotiations we are keen on looking at including minerals.

"We have a lot of ground to cover and minerals are part of that," said Mr Majurey.

When completed the settlement will offer redress and could be worth more than \$75 million.

The agreement in principle outlines that 39,000 ha of land could be made available to the iwi collective for purchase including all of the state-owned forests in the region as well as the Landcorp block at Whenuakite. Waikato Times

## Waihi welcomes Newmont boss

By FRITHA TAGG

A visit to Waihi Community Marae was on the list of must dos for Newmont's senior manager for the Asia Pacific region when he visited Waihi last week.

Jeff Huspeni, who was a senior manager of Newmont's African operations before he was appointed to the Perth-based position, has also held senior positions in the company's various exploration, geology and business development departments in the United States.

While in Waihi, Mr Huspeni was welcomed on to the Waihi Community Marae and presented with a mounted greenstone chisel.

Produced by local carver Rob Brown, the chisel is the same shape as those traditionally used to hollow out the inside of waka, and was described by Waihi Community Marae chairman Tim Ainsley as "a beautifully carved piece that carried with it a lot of mana and the aroha of the people of Waihi".

This is Mr Huspeni's first visit to Waihi in his new role, and he spent two days in Waihi getting an overview of the company's operations and activities.

Newmont Waihi Gold's external affairs manager Sefton Darby said Mr Huspeni was very interested in the mine.

"As a geologist and a member of our Regional Leadership Team, Jeff obviously had an interest in seeing our current operations first hand, and it was good to be able to bring him up to speed with our exploration programme.

"He was also very keen to learn of our various community



**MEMENTO:** Newmont Asia Pacific senior manager Jeff Huspeni (centre) is presented with a mounted greenstone chisel by Waihi Community Marae chairman Tim Ainsley (left) accompanied by Newmont Waihi Gold general manager Glen Grindlay.

PHOTO: KIT WILSON/NEWMONT WAIHI GOLD

participation and support programmes," said Mr Darby.

Waihi is widely regarded as a

model of how a mine and community can work effectively together to achieve long term

benefits for all parties.

Mr Huspeni visited some of Waihi's local attractions such as

the Cornish Pumphouse and the Gold Story display beneath the Visitor Information Centre.